

## IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

IOWA ARTS  
COUNCIL

PRODUCE  
IOWA

STATE HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY OF IOWA

## CREATING CULTURALLY **VIBRANT** COMMUNITIES



### Greetings,

Our thoughts are with everyone who has been affected by the recent derecho storm.

In its aftermath, the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs has teamed up with the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (IDHSEM) to determine which federal resources may be available for the cultural sector.

As you may have heard, IDHSEM and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are now accepting requests for public assistance for eligible applicants within the [16 Iowa counties](#) in the federally designated disaster area.

Private non-profits and local governments may be eligible to receive funding for the repair or restoration of their facilities as long as they meet a few basic requirements. Eligible cultural facilities include: performing arts centers, museums, libraries, community centers that offer arts services, historic buildings that house historic artifacts, some natural areas – and more. (Pro tip: Check pages 45-46 of this [FEMA guide](#) to see if your organization is eligible.)

### LEARN MORE

Please know that our team is ready to answer any questions you might have and point you toward additional resources. Don't hesitate to [contact us](#).

Take care – and keep up the good work,

*Chris Kramer*

Chris Kramer  
Director, Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs

# After the Storm



Many national resources are available to help arts and cultural organizations recover from this month's storm. Here are three good places to start . . .

**The Heritage Emergency National Task Force** offers one of the most concise lists of resources available for disaster recovery. The task force is co-sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Smithsonian Institution, in partnership with more than 60 national service organizations and federal agencies. The task force's resources include funding options as well as guidance about health and safety.

**The National Parks Service's Conserve-O-Grams** offer practical advice about salvaging historic collections from damage, including tips on drying and freezing wet materials to minimize damage.

**The Regional Alliance for Preservation** also offers technical assistance. Its members include the Ford Conservation Center in Omaha (402-595-1180) and the Midwest Art Conservation Center in Minneapolis (612-870-3120).

## Iowans Helping Iowans

As Iowans recover from the recent wind storm, more than 60,000 have joined a Facebook group called "Iowa Derecho Storm Resource Page." It was created on Aug. 10 and has quickly become a collaborative resource for information and assistance. It's also a place to see Iowans at their best, offering help and gratitude in equal measure.

[JOIN THE GROUP](#)



*Photo posted by Tom Caton with the caption, "Whoever did this, you're awesome."*

## NEA & Iowa Arts Council Town Hall

The National Endowment for the Arts and Iowa Arts Council recently co-hosted a virtual town hall to help Iowa's cultural organizations tap into state and national resources related to the Covid-19 pandemic. If you missed the meeting, or would like to review the information, feel free to watch the recording.

[WATCH THE RECORDING](#)



## Iowa Nonprofit Recovery Fund

Federal CARES Act funds are available to help Iowa nonprofits that have been economically affected by Covid-19. The Iowa Nonprofit Recovery Fund, administered by Volunteer Iowa and the Iowa Economic Development Authority, provides short-term relief for organizations with annual revenues that exceed \$25,000 and are facing economic challenges during the pandemic. Applications will be accepted as long as funds remain.



#### APPLICATION GUIDELINES

### U.S. Regional Arts Resilience Fund

Thanks to an anonymous donor, Arts Midwest is expanding the U.S. Regional Arts Resilience Fund to smaller organizations in the Midwest. Grants of \$10,000 to \$50,000 will be awarded to organizations with (pre-Covid) budgets between \$50,000-\$249,999, with a special focus on arts and cultural organizations in rural communities and those that serve or are led by indigenous people and people of color. Anyone may nominate an arts organization online by Aug. 28.



#### APPLICATION GUIDELINES

### Audience Outlook Monitor

When will audiences and visitors be ready to return? Nobody knows for sure, but WolfBrown has some educated, data-based guesses. The market-research and arts-consulting firm with offices across the country has compiled an Audience Outlook Monitor with input from researchers, funders, service organizations and hundreds of cultural organizations who want to make informed decisions about how and when to re-start programming.

# AUDIENCE OUTLOOK MONITOR

#### LEARN MORE

### #ArtsCreateHope

Sometimes, the arts offer light when things look dark. If you've found some hope in a song, a book, a movie, a photograph – or any other form of art – take a moment to help Americans for the Arts spread the word. Post a note on social media with the hashtag #ArtsCreateHope, and be sure to tag @IowaArtsCouncil and @americans4arts.

#ArtsCreateHope



#### LEARN MORE

# Three Big Wins

Even during this challenging summer, Iowa's cultural sector keeps finding innovative ways to offer programs and events. And we'll keep spreading the word.



**Ballet Des Moines** recently announced its 2020-2021 season, and they're not missing a beat. The company's virtual lineup includes a world premiere with the local **Belin Quartet**, a jazz program with **Max Wellman**, a new contemporary ballet with the **Roseman Quartet** in Ames, a "Peter and the Wolf" project with local schools, and a virtual "Nutcracker" celebration with plans for DIY costumes, at-home tea parties and plenty more.

[LEARN MORE](#)



**The Heartland Youth Choir** in Des Moines recently organized a drive-through awards ceremony, and they're gearing up for in-person rehearsals this fall, with extra protocols to keep everyone safe and healthy. More than half of last year's young singers plan to return – with some new recruits, too – "to help heal our hearts and souls in this awful time," artistic director **Sandy Miller** told us. "We felt it was our duty to do everything we could."

[LEARN MORE](#)



**FilmScene** in Iowa City is stepping up to the challenges of the pandemic, because one way or another, the show must go on!

They're offering virtual screenings, opening their theater for host-your-own movie parties, and even selling [at-home concessions bundles](#) so you can enjoy a cinema experience in your own living room. Through their "Kernels for Kindness" program, \$5 of the proceeds from each concessions bundle benefits a local charity.

[LEARN MORE](#)

If you've figured out how to offer cultural programs during the pandemic – or you know an organization that has – please let us know. We'd love to share some inspiring examples.

[CONTACT US](#)